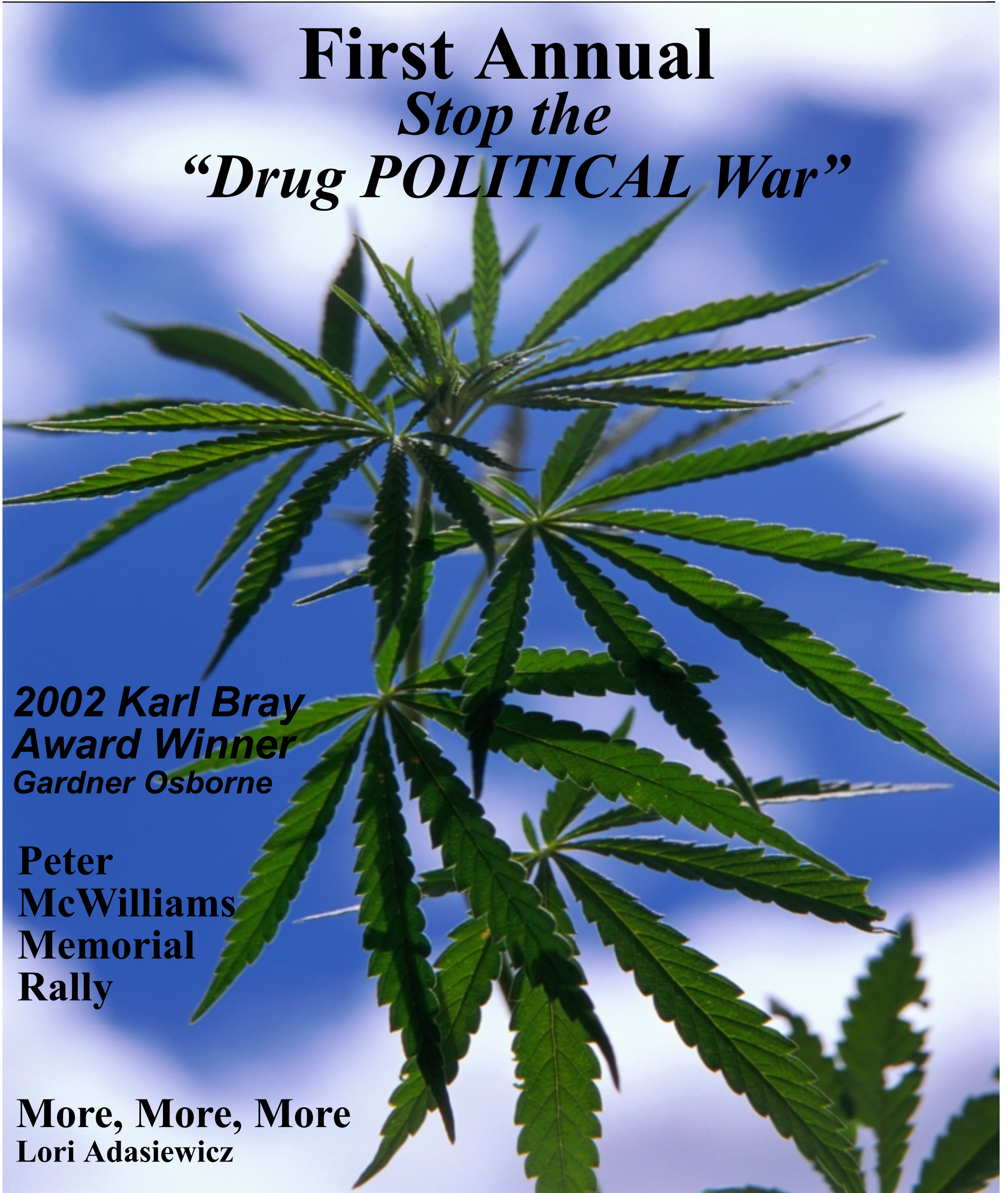


First Annual *Stop the “Drug *POLITICAL* War”*

**2002 Karl Bray
Award Winner
Gardner Osborne**

**Peter
McWilliams
Memorial
Rally**

**More, More, More
Lori Adasiewicz**



From the Chair

Pve got some exciting news to share, but first I want to remind everyone about *Operation Breakthrough*.

As you probably know from reading last month's column, we're gearing up for this year's *Operation Breakthrough* — a project I began with the support of the Chair and Executive Committee in 2000 — which has since elected 21 Libertarians to office in California.

Our Executive Director and many volunteers are diligently researching races in counties from San Diego to Humboldt and compiling a target list of local, winnable races. We expect to get this done in time for our mailings this summer.

Our biggest worry is still ... money. For \$70-75,000, we can scale this project to 40-to-50 victories this year. If we have less money, we'll have less candidates and less victories. Is there the support to raise the money needed to scale this project to its potential? We don't know the answer to that question yet. We do know that for approximately every \$1,500 we spend on this we are able to get another Libertarian elected to office. One of the best bargains around, if you ask me.

If you want to help fund this successful strategy in the amount of \$1,000 or more, please call me at home (805-583-3308) or call Executive Director David Molony at the office (818-782-8400) as soon as you finish reading this column.

Now, back to the exciting news.

First, let me give you some background. As a party, one of our challenges has been getting coverage in the press. We would send press release after press release and would have very little to show for it. Imagine what a newspaper editor is asking when he receives our press release. "Why should our newspaper in Eureka care about a press release coming out of Panorama City from a third party that doesn't affect anything in our local area?" When you think about it, he's got a point. His goal is to entertain his readers so that he can sell more newspapers and more advertising.

So, what DO readers most want to read and what DO editors want to print? The studies published on this subject tell us that one of the most read parts of the newspaper are Letters-to-the-Editor (LTEs) from local residents. So the solution to getting more coverage on libertarian ideas is to have more libertarians write LTEs, right?

Well, there has been no easy way to get Libertarians to write and send LTEs. Some Libertarians could write letters all the time, but newspapers won't publish more than one letter per month from one person. Other Libertarians would love to write LTEs, but they don't have the time or the talent. And there is no practical way to have a great LTE published in San Diego, Bakersfield, Fresno, San Jose and Eureka. Until now.

Thanks to the hard volunteer work of a Libertarian computer programmer, Glen Dickey, in the next 60 days we will be unveiling *Project: Adopt A Newspaper*.

From the comfort of your computer, accessing a website, you will be able to pen a LTE that will be e-mailed to hundreds of Libertarian subscribers across the state and country, where with a few mouse clicks they can sign and e-mail (or fax) that same letter under their name to their local newspaper. The website's architecture will include a sophisticated algorithm to be sure that the same letter doesn't show up twice in the same geographical area.

Need help creating an original letter? Over time, a database of thousands of LTEs will be accumulated. Using a keyword search you'll be able to find an appropriate letter dealing with the subject of your choice, giving you many ideas on how to approach your situation.

Libertarians will also have the opportunity to make a pledge to the LP for each letter published containing the word "libertarian." Not only can your LTE be published in multiple newspapers, you'll also have the satisfaction of knowing that others are making a financial contribution to the party because of your talent.

Stay tuned.

LPC

Takin' it to the Streets 2002 Karl Bray Award Winner - Gardner Osborne

By David Molony

The Libertarian Party honors super activist Gardner Osborne for his tireless work towards freeing our country from the odious and draconian political drug laws.

The annual Karl Bray Award is given to a Libertarian for conspicuous and meritorious activism further the goals of the Libertarian Party of California.

Does the following punishment fit 2/10 of a gram of marijuana? Gardner's punishment was 5 years in prison (3 1/2 served), and confiscation of \$850,000. (Gardner started in the stock market in the early 1980's and due to his industry and following the stock market, made a lot of money in the stock market boom.)

The Department of Justice

prison for 2/10th of a gram of marijuana."

"I happened to be watching CSPAN coverage of the 1996 LP National Convention. After watching 1/2 - 1 hour, I called the LP 800 number and joined immediately."

"The Libertarian Party kept my sanity and anger level down for the next 3 1/2 years."

In prison I read San Diego and national newspapers; Cato information; Reason; ISIL; books by von Mises; Ayn Rand.

Gardner says, "After this, in jail I started teaching a philosophy class. It really was a Libertarian class. Five to ten people would show up, even Communist Bob. I think I made an impact."

A Super Libertarian is Born

Gardner relates, "Generally, people go about their daily lives and don't worry about politics until it affects them. That's when I was happy to find the LP."

"I am an activist now. I was released only a little more than a year ago...after I settled in, the first thing I did was volunteer to work in a gun show for Libertarian Party. Of course, I did not handle any guns."

"I started the *End the Drug War Rally* once per month starting in March 2001. The first Wednesday of each month," said Gardner. "Just my brother and I went to the first rally." Now, up to twenty people show up." (The rallies are held in front of the federal and state courthouse in San Diego every month.)

"We made 3'x4' signs, and literature. We try to get people to honk (Our signs say "Honk to end the drug war", and "Register and vote libertarian.") Hundreds honk, including police cars. We pass out match books."

Security guards threatened to kick them out and arrest them, but they got a city map showing they are not on a federal reservation, and that they are on public property.

(continued page 5)



Jack Dean presents Gardner Osborne with the 2002 Karl Bray Award

Background

August 9, 1995 - the day Jerry Garcia died - this is the day Gardner will "remember for the rest of my life." Gardner was arrested and sent into the prison system. His crime: conspiracy to distribute marijuana. The amount: 2/10ths of a gram. When Gardner told me this, I had no idea how much this was. Look at your pinky. From the bottom of your fingernail to the tip. That's approximately 2/10ths of a gram.

In addition, other people's statements were solicited to use against Gardner. Anyone mildly informed of our drug political wars understands this is standard procedure. Tell on someone else, and you get no sentence. They did offer Osborne the same deal - if Gardner worked undercover, they would not charge him or take anything he owned. This undercover work can stretch on for years. Gardner refused on principle.

Punishment Fits the Crime?

One of the tenets of our criminal justice system is the punishment must fit the crime.

also took the money Gardner paid in taxes to the IRS in 1995 - \$20,000 to the IRS and \$3,000 to the state. Gardner *still* owes this money to the IRS and the state of California.

The harshest punishment of all: 95% of all marriages split up with a sentence of 5 years. Gardner and his wife divorced. She did better than most and made it halfway, but the loneliness and lack of personal contact - there's no sitting on the couch with your arm around someone you care about - broke up the marriage. His wife moved to Las Vegas (where Gardner was first incarcerated, but she did not want to move to an Oregon prison. "I was hoping to have kids by now," says Gardner.

This is one story. Isn't one enough?

Beginnings

In prison, on the 4th of July, 1996, he was "upset with my country and not happy with direction of my county and with my life. I was distraught & unhappy. I certainly did not feel like celebrating America being a free country, given that I was in

The Problem with Washington

By Michelle Malkin

Why on earth would you want to move to Washington, D.C.? Inside the Beltway, this is an absurd and unthinkable question. Washington, after all, is the Center of the Universe. The Pillar of Power. The Dominion of Movers and Shakers. Who wouldn't want to live and



Michelle Malkin

work here?
Try real people with real jobs and real families.
A report released by the Brookings Institution last week reveals that most talented Americans from across the country are repulsed by the idea of relocating to Washington and accepting government positions. In a survey

of hundreds of prominent civic and corporate leaders, the report noted: "Most respondents viewed Washington as a somewhat less or much less favorable place to live than their current residences." High housing costs and personal family disruptions rated high among the reasons people wouldn't want to settle down in the nation's capital if offered presidential appointments.

Worrywarts at the left-leaning Brookings cooked up the typical Beltway solution for fixing what they called the "Problems on the Potomac": Bribe the outsiders with a host of tax-subsidized goodies such as fatter travel reimbursements, house-hunting allowances, job-search assistance for "trailing" spouses, and school and child-care assistance for the little ones. The report concludes optimistically that after surveying scores of human resource directors who recruit top-level executives, "Washington may not be such an uninviting place as potential appointees think it is."

But where do these human resource directors who hold such a charitable view of Washington work themselves? At think tanks,
(continued page 7)

Executive Director Report

All You Want To Know

By David Molony

Many Libertarians said, "David, what does an Executive Director do?" I'm sure there is a lot of latitude and ideas of what people think an



David Molony

executive director should do, and I do bring my own perspective as well.
Whenever I start in any organization at any level, I follow

the same cookie-cutter plan. I *organize* the organization, I get *people* involved, I plan and support *activities*.

Organize

Organize: these are the boring, mundane details that no one likes doing, including myself. Entering names and addresses into databases, finding ways to decrease costs, finding donated materials. Organizing is the basis for creating any effective and efficient organization. It's the little things.

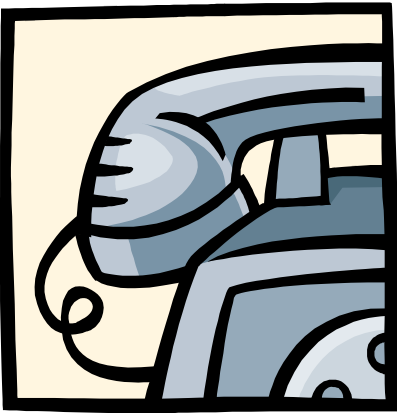
For example, I created an automatic deposits to receive our money from the national Libertarian Party. It's one of those things that sounds easy, is easy, but no one does.

I switched from an employee leasing service costing \$2500 per year in processing costs to one costing \$1100.

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are subject to editing.*

Deadline: 1st day of every month.

Libertarian State Committees

The state Executive Committee has met twice since the close of the 2002 convention, and an important part of its work is the job of the various subcommittees. Appointments were made at the February meeting, and several committees reported on their activities at the April meeting.

The **Operations Committee** deals with urgent matters which come up between Executive Committee meetings. Serving on the Operations Committee along with state chair Aaron Starr are Lori Adasiewicz, Ted Brown, Mark Hinkle, and Sandi Webb.

Committees develop, investigate, or oversee various party activities and programs. If you have ideas relating to these matters, or would like to volunteer, send a note to the committee chair or contact person:

Audit Committee (reviews financial records)

Dale Ogden dfo@dalefogden.org

Budget Committee (develops budget)

Lori Adasiewicz ladasiewicz@attbi.com

Convention Oversight Committee (monitors current/upcoming convention)

Donna Nowland DnnNow@aol.com

Convention Planning Committee (plans/recommends future conventions)

Wayne Nygren wnygren@earthlink.net

Human Resources Committee (staff issues)

Lori Adasiewicz ladasiewicz@attbi.com

Legal Committee (advises on litigation and other legal matters)

Lori Adasiewicz ladasiewicz@attbi.com

Legislative Committee (reviews state legislation)

Brian Lee Cross blcross@pacbell.net

Membership Committee (membership recruiting/retention)

Jonathan Zwickel jonathan@jonathanira.com

Outreach Media Committee (literature, video, etc.)

Shree Rajan lyfewryter@msn.com

Partisan Candidate Support Committee (helping our candidates)

Jonathan Zwickel <jonathan@jonathanira.com>

Style Committee (reviews bylaws and platform)

RobRob RobRob-13@juno.com

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— **Freeman**

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Second Annual Peter McWilliams Memorial Rally Libertarian Party of California Political Prisoner Support Committee

Fellow Libertarians:
I'm happy to announce that the **Libertarian Party of California Political Prisoner Support Committee** (LPCPPSC) plans to host a special event in honor of the passing of Peter McWilliams — who died of an overdose of the *Drug Political War* on June 15, 2000.

Second Annual Peter McWilliams Memorial Rally

The *Second Annual Peter McWilliams Memorial Rally* will be held on Saturday June 15, 2002 from 1 p.m. - 6 p.m. at the **Los Angeles Federal Building**, 11000 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles.

The Rally will expand this year. Simultaneous rallies in San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco will call attention to our government's ongoing war on medical marijuana patients and the **EVIL** of the political war.

I invite all Libertarians to attend. It will be a great opportunity



Super Activist Hal Chiprin in action!

for our candidates to speak out about Libertarian solutions and invite new people to join our party.

There will be more information in the next *LPC Monthly*; however, please mark Saturday, June 15, 2002 on your calendar. Attend the *Second Annual Peter McWilliams Memorial Rally*. It will be a great Libertarian time.

LPCPPSC Yahoo Group & Website

The **LPCPPSC Yahoo Group** (to subscribe an e-mail to lpcppsc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) is the online arm of the LPCPPSC. This group is a call-to-action and ideas and planning group. Check out our web site at <http://www.home.earthlink.net/~jamiranda/lpcppsc.html>.

One important goal of the LPCPPSC is to grow the Libertarian Party. This means: more registered Libertarians; more Libertarian members; more

Libertarian activists.

We need **more people** for activism. To help Libertarian candidates win. We must collect registration forms and membership forms right then and there at our events and rallies.

I work with Executive Director David Molony at LPC headquarters in Los Angeles. We need more volunteer help at LPC headquarters to make this and other activities successful. Please contact David Molony today at 818-782-8400 to volunteer.

Adopt-A-Political-Prisoner Program

David Molony and I are putting together the *Adopt-A-Political-Prisoner Program*. 300,000 inmates are under the care of the CDC (California Department of Corrections). In a Libertarian Society, 80% of our fellow citizens currently in prison would not be there! The *only* way we can change things is to grow our party to a significant size so Libertarians can win elections and give us back our freedoms. The *Adopt-A-Political-Prisoner Program* will be a major outreach effort into the prison system in California.

The goal of the *Adopt-A-Political-Prisoner Program*: educate prisoners and their families. Show them the only way to change the laws that put them in prison is to: *register* Libertarian, become a Libertarian Party member, *vote* Libertarian.

I ask Libertarians to adopt a non-violent political prisoner. We will “check their records” on a one-on-one basis to assure and insure all are truly non-violent. By adopting a prisoner, you will make a life-long friend. By writing or accepting phone calls, sending books, you let prisoners know that there are people that care and feel that their loss of freedom is unjust. *This means a great deal to prisoners.* The Libertarian Party can give them a voice. These people will get out of prison and vote Libertarian and become Libertarian activists. I know I'm one!

The families of political prisoners are suffering. Their

mother, father, brother, sister, husband, wife are condemned by unjust laws — laws that should not exist in a free country. If we educate these families about the Libertarian alternative, the family will likely join the Libertarian Party.

Why Help?

It is a great feeling to show compassion to your fellow man or woman, when they lose their freedom to unjust laws, and when you agree those laws unjust.

On a personal note, when I was incarcerated, I thought, “Am I a really a bad person? No, I am not. Do I belong in here with real criminals? No, I do not. Am I the same as those who are convicted of violent crimes? No, I am not.” However, *I had an advantage when I went in.*

I was a Libertarian, and I knew the Libertarian Party was *only* party working to change the laws that forced me to be in prison. Furthermore, our current LPC Chair, Aaron Starr, personally wrote a letter to the sentencing judge requesting leniency and he sent me books when I was in.

All agree that people who rob, murder, rape, commit arson and molest children belong in prison. **Nobody** in our society that disagrees with that. However, the *Drug Political War* is sending the wrong people to prison, wastes billions of taxpayer money, and wrecks families and our society. The LP is the only political party offering a legal escape route. The Libertarian Party is the best chance that they and their children have to insure they will never have to lose their freedoms again.

If you help, you become appreciated and revered by that person. You will be a hero to that person and their family. Sometimes, you are their only hope.

Support

We need more volunteer help at LPC headquarters to make these activities successful. Contact David Molony today at 818-782-8400. If you cannot come in to the office, please call anyway so we can coordinate virtual activism through the miracle of telephone and internet. Call today.

Yours In Liberty,
Hal Chiprin

LPC

Takin’ it to the Streets (continued from page 2)

Other Activities

While Gardner Osborne’s main focus is on the drug political war, he pulls his weight in all areas. I tried to reach Gardner on April 15th and 16th. Of course, on the 15th, he was at an anti-tax day protest until midnight. The next morning, he was at the US Naturalization ceremony signing up new citizens to be registered Libertarians. Wow.

He designed and ordered Libertarian matchbooks inviting people to join the Libertarian Party (see www.growthelp.org to order your own!). “We have passed out 100,000 matchbooks so far,” exclaimed Gardner. He does not smoke himself (cigarettes or cannabis), but says matchbooks are an ideal way to introduce yourself to others as a Libertarian.

“Having the matches is a good excuse to introduce yourself.

It’s non-confrontational. It depends on the situation, but I’ll say “I have these ‘smokers rights’ matchbooks. Would you like to hear more?”

“I love finding grumpy or unhappy people who were like me. Sometimes people walk away when you tell them about the LP, but a lot of times, people are happy and you make a connection.”

Gardner also took over the Annual San Diego Libertarian barbeque, which attracts 80 people. Since Garnder does not like paying taxes, he is a home-brewer and brings his own brew to contribute to the event.

Gardner also participates in Liberty Toastmasters (he doesn’t run it...can you believe it?), he helped with candidate mailings (Gardner helped stuff 5000 envelopes), and he went out door-to-door helping gather signatures for candidates. He also organized 3

outreach booths, he brought everything to the tax protest this year and has been to three or four naturalization ceremonies. He is organizing new Earth Day outreach for April 27th.

Is Activism Enough?

Gardner is very realistic about how to grow the LP. He makes sure he always has Libertarian materials, registration forms and membership forms. He says we must always be ready to get people to register and join the Libertarian Party. If we participate in activities or conversations and do not get registration and membership forms filled out, it is a serious mistake.

We *must* gather people’s names and phone numbers and follow up. “Every Libertarian must be willing in day-to-day life to talk to others. In the DMV line, when applying for a building permit. **LPC** Sitting in a bar. That’s how I met my girlfriend,” said Gardner.

The Drug Political War

By David Molony

It is very important to correctly name things. For example, the drug war is a misnomer. It’s **not** a “drug war”. It is a drug *political* war. Very different. Wars are when two sides are violently fighting each other. No, we don’t *really* have a war. One side is not fighting - they just seek medication or recreation. I’m not talking of those who are violent, or use drugs irresponsibly, so don’t go there.

Political wars, and political prisoners, happen when a group in power wants to prevent others from exercising their rights. The right to pursue life, liberty or *happiness*.

Small Number

Yes, a small number of our fellow law-making Americans are using laws to put non-violent,

occasional drug users into prison. Everyone I talk to - police officers (*every* police officer), drug counsellors, ministers - they **all** want the drug political war to end.

Radicalization of an Executive Director

Before I became Executive Director of the Libertarian Party of California, I really did not come into contact with ANY kind of drug use or anyone who has been prosecuted for it. I never really had too much of an opinion on the matter, other than the general Libertarian view - allow mature adults to conduct their lives as they see fit.

However, in the last several months, thanks to Hal Chiprin, I spoke to dozens of Americans - Libertarians and non-

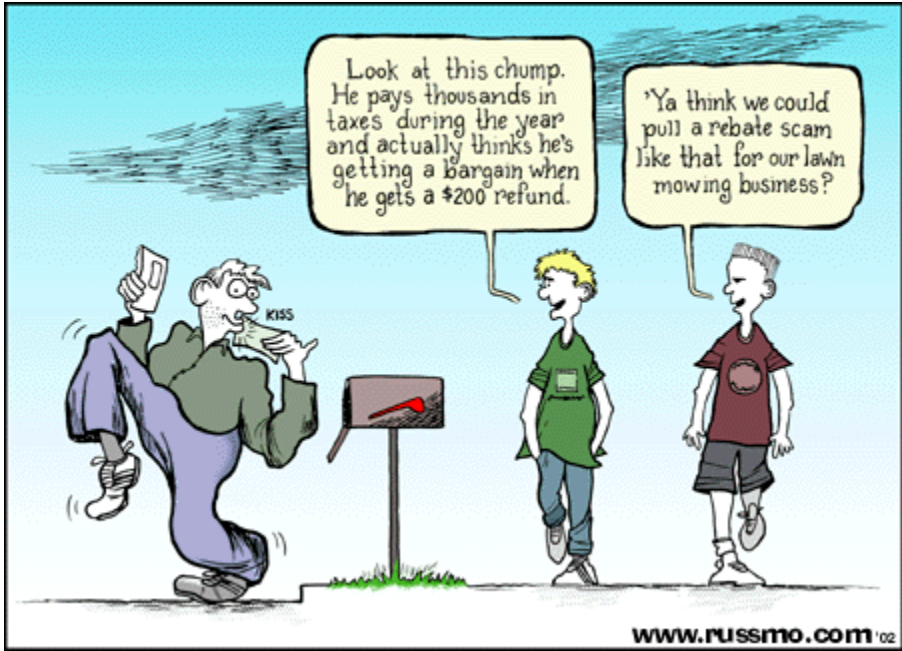
Libertarians - good people who have been put in jail for exceedingly and ridiculously small amounts of cannabis. Most are sick with chronic illness - backpain, exploded pancreas, cancer. Really sick. We’re not talking kingpins with AK-47s here.

I talked to a fifty year old, never arrested in his life, who had had 25-30 cannabis plants - arrested. A small business owner (graphic design) who had 20 plants - 12 SWAT officers in full StarWars battle regalia burst the front door (they could have sent out a meter maid). Gardner Osborne had \$850,000 (his life savings) and his wife confiscated (see story).

The Solution

Gardner Osborne says electing Libertarian is the only solution. I agree.

If you wish to help end the drug *political* war, and help our American political prisoners, please go to the back of this publication, fill out our donation form for *Operation Breakthrough 2.0*. Support our candidates. Support more Norm Vroman’s. We are the only party from top to bottom to support this position. **Don’t wait, tomorrow’s too late.** **LPC**



More, More, More Find and Attract More Libertarians

By Lori Adasiewicz

Together with more than 200 Sacramento area attorneys, I attended a conference sponsored by the Federal Bar Association and the Sacramento County Bar Association. Tremendous donations to underwrite the food were made by Sacramento’s four largest law firms so that the



Lori Adasiewicz

event was **FREE** to guests. The keynote speaker was district court Judge Frank C. Damrell, Jr., a federal judge appointed by Bill Clinton.

You may recognize the Judge’s name as the one who ordered Reliant (a private Texas corporation) to continue to provide California with energy during our “energy crunch.” Other significant cases include a 1999 ruling that Waldorf public schools unconstitutionally base their instruction on religious beliefs.

This topic of the program was . . . teaching Constitutional values and U.S. history as a means of winning our current war. Not the War on Terrorism, not the War on Drugs, the War on Poverty, nor the War for Socialized Health Care.

Judge Damrell declared that the United States is losing the war against ignorance and apathy.

Reciting reams of scary educational statistics, he put out a call to action. In fact, he declared that it was the DUTY of each teacher, judge, and lawyer to

actively teach the Constitution as the foundation upon which the greatness of this county lies, and the history of the United States which reveals the values that made America great.

He believes the school system (while providing “excellent education”) fails to convey to the current generation the importance of being a citizen of the U.S., and what makes that citizenship different from being a citizen of any other country. Specifically: the *freedoms* that are taken for granted, and that we are in danger of losing in the wake of 9-11.

My father (also a libertarian attorney) attended the conference with me, and we were both struck by: (1) the Judge’s neutral (i.e. not lefty) characterization of Constitutional values and freedoms; and (2) the number of socially mainstream people that attended an event. Judge Damrell received a standing ovation for a speech that would have been appropriate and well-received at the next Libertarian convention.

Libertarianism — the interest is there, the drive is there among the people. We can succeed if the LP can manage to properly present our ideas.

To gain membership, activists, and interest, Libertarians must observe **RULE NUMBER ONE** of persuading - tailor the message to specific audiences. A group must hear the language they will understand from a person that physically, economically, and socially resembles the group.

If we find the right messenger and the right words to appeal to broader segments of society, we will gain members. Each of us has our own social niche (or comfort zone). Please don’t read this to say that any one particular niche is better than any other niche. It is incumbent upon each of us to go and recruit people from among our niche. If we do, we bring more people to liberty **LPC**

United States Presidents **George Washington** and **Thomas Jefferson** grew hemp, used products made from hemp, and praised the hemp plant in some of their writings. Under the laws written by today’s politicians, George Washington and Thomas Jefferson would be considered a threat to society—they would be arrested and thrown in prison for the felony crime of growing plants.

Executive Director Report (continued from page 3)

Libertarian Party of California. How does it help? One example: the checks we send out to each region used to take 45 minutes to 1 hour of printing time (had to watch the old printer the whole time for jams). It now takes less than 5 minutes to print the checks. This is just one example of time savings.

People Involvement

In September 2001, I started planning *Project Cyclone*. This is a project to get more volunteers involved. First at the state HQ (this has never been done before on any significant level), then at the local level. I do have prior experience in getting people involved in organizations.

During first month in September 2001, I started laying the groundwork for *PROJECT CYCLONE* — to begin in January 2002.

I was 'brand new' to Los Angeles in September 2001. Didn't know a soul. Since January 2002, over 30 volunteers are helping at the office. These volunteers have worked a combined total of over 400 hours. They have made fundraising calls (4 new monthly pledgers), membership calls, wrote over 20 letters-to-the-editor, wrote for the LPC newspaper, and they are photographers.

They have helped assemble walking lists for Operation: Energy Tax Revolt! They provide graphics as shown by our new masthead for our newspaper. They made 150 phone calls inviting Libertarian candidates to our State Convention. They have made 300 address changes/corrections for the Los Angeles Libertarians. Right now, our wonderful volunteers are compiling a list of all 10,000 elective offices in California and have

5,000 entered. Volunteers are writing computer programs.

There is no way anyone could accomplish all these tasks by himself or herself.

Three or four brand new volunteers have inquired about coming in to help over the next week

I have two interns who have indicated they are willing to work six to eight weeks starting this summer.

Time permitting, I would like to get a total of 100 volunteers to come into the office (are you interested in helping the state Libertarian Party - see the back page if you are...)

Activities

A primary goal of a political party is to elect party members. *Operation Breakthrough* is our proven method of electing officials. We plan to contact 30,000 registered Libertarians and find 400-500 Libertarians to run for office. This effort depends on you. Your contributions and time. Please file for an office in your area. If you cannot, or do not want to, please help us financially.

Additionally, to further help Libertarian activity, I have personally rented an office space in the same office complex as the LPC headquarters. This is a \$400 per month personal contribution. We have had so many volunteers come in, we have to use this space just to fit everyone in. I use it as an "Activities" Center for Libertarian grassroots activism. I am thrilled so many people are becoming involved in the Libertarian Party now that this space is available. If you are in the Los Angeles area and would like to help us, please call me. We have a seat with your name on it. **LPC**

Operation: Energy Tax Revolt! Mountain View Effort



Bill Stewart collects signatures

Mountain View is revving up *Operation: Energy Tax Revolt!* in their city. If you would like to help, please contact Ray Strong at: 408-268-1496 or hrstrong@hotmail.com. **LPC**

Just Like Bob Marley Said

By Barry Benintende

Sick and dying people need options, they need to know we care. They need to know that even though some of us do not condone drug use, that we as a society understand the need for personal freedom to choose the medication that is best suited to heal the individual. And instead of freedom of choice, we get the



Barry Benintende

freedom of high-priced prescription drugs or nothing.

The Supreme Court, some what oddly, ruled earlier this year that no medical marijuana necessity defense is possible. The highest court in the land did so simply because Congress has already decided that marijuana has no medical value. Regardless of the fact that there is much evidence to the contrary, congress has decided that "pot" is evil and can have no positive results.

For a moment, let's ignore the multiple uses for the hemp plant (paper, cloth, durable flooring, jute-like carpeting, medical benefits, attested to by numerous doctors and medical publications, etc.) and focus on the will of the people.

California voted, overwhelmingly, in favor of medicinal marijuana — yet the government acted like concerned parents. It

was too Robert Young-ish, "that's not really what you wanted, you're just misguided." Wrong. Like Bob Marley said, "Legalize it!"

The voters of this state spoke, loudly and clearly, that they wanted marijuana as an option when caring for cancer, AIDS, glaucoma and any other ailment that doctors feel can be medically assisted by marijuana consumption. Yes, there is substance abuse in California, but as Steve Kubby, founder of AMMA said, "there is something worse than substance abuse it is freedom abuse." Freedom is getting abused, and not just here. The will of the people needs to reign supreme, and we voted.

"It is important to recognize that the Supreme Court decision did NOT strike down or in any way modify any state medical marijuana laws. The Supreme Court did NOT say that citizens don't have the right to cultivate and possess medical marijuana within their own state borders. All this decision said is that medical necessity is not a defense to federal law. Unless somebody is facing federal prosecution, it makes no difference whatsoever," Kubby further stated.

The bottom line is this, medical marijuana still stands in those states that have approved it. The medical marijuana "clubs" will be largely unaffected by the Supreme Court ruling; they will probably switch from distributing medical marijuana to helping patients grow their own. This decision could create a huge boom in home cultivation, to make up for the shutting down of distribution

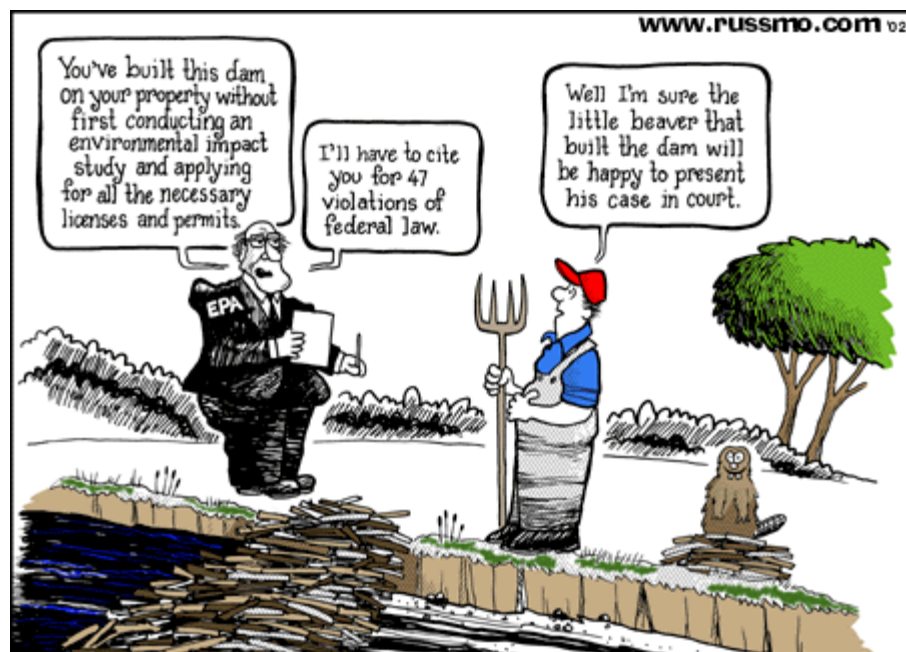
clubs.

It is terrifying to think that no matter what law the people vote into existence can be ruled obsolete by the Supreme Court. Congress is losing the "War on Drugs" and is grasping at every straw it can find to claim victory. What kind of victory is it when you take away a terminal patient's one comfort? At best, it is a hollow victory. At worst, it tells me our Congress is, yet again, not listening. I wonder how our elected representatives sleep at night, "ahhh, honey," they must say as they pull up the sheets to their neck, "I ignored those that voted for me and covered my political behind." Nice. All of these developments tell me something about our elected reps.

It tells me that Congress is well behind the curve when it comes to the rights of the people, and our Supreme Court is a collection of ideologues who worry more about their image than they do about the document they were sworn in to uphold. Our Constitution gives the states certain rights that the national government can not take away. And Kubby, for one, is out to play Don Quixote if he has to to get people to listen.

"This has been the big fear, marijuana will be a symbol for the arrogance of government, for excessive government, for everything we hate about government and every thing we need to change, and it will be about the Bill of Rights," he concluded.

(Benintende is Executive Editor of the *La Jolla Light*, a 90 year-old weekly in Southern California and a long-time Libertarian) **LPC**



NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETS IN COLORADO

By Joe Dehn

The Libertarian National Committee met 16-17 March 2002 in Evergreen, Colorado.

The Chair made brief remarks, noting an apparently



Joe Dehn

improved outlook for the party and thanking people for work that they have done.

The Treasurer reported that the party's financial condition has improved, and commented on various topics including budget variances, relationships among budget categories, the reserve, and project accounting. The Treasurer and the Executive Director were asked to prepare by June a report on options for project accounting.

The Executive Director reviewed year-to-date revenue and expenses, and reported on other topics relating to the national office, including the results of the recent "annual report" fundraising letter, changes to renewal letter procedures, the major donor program, the drug war advertisement, and Internet projects.

The Communications Director reported on the success of recent releases concerning "silly laws", commented on the controversy over LP News coverage of the American Liberty Foundation, and related some media stories. He informed the LNC that he will be leaving his position after the national convention, but will be available for some time after that to edit LP News as a contractor.

A resolution calling for

the repeal of the USA Patriot Act was adopted.

Five members were appointed to serve on the Credentials Committee for the upcoming convention; Gary Johnson was appointed the interim chair.

There was a discussion of "customer service" issues, topics including measurement of office response times, database problems, setting of service standards, and the extent to which the office is already providing service within expectations. The Operations Director commented on difficulties in getting work done on the database system, the possible replacement of the system with a new one, and plans to implement a separate web-based application to allow affiliate access to member information.

There was discussion of the budget, topics including whether we are likely to achieve the revenue target for the year, whether the LNC should take additional steps to set spending priorities, and how the three-category division of the budget relates to an understanding of whether we are on track.

There was a review of the progress on strategies from the strategic plan for which LNC members or staff have taken on a "champion" role.

The Executive Director reported on plans for implementation of the "branding" strategy, starting with surveys of current and lapsed members and other groups. He outlined a plan to hire a Director of Marketing who would conduct this research as his first project.

There was discussion of a number of ideas for changes to the bylaws. LNC members were polled on their support for each of these ideas, with the results to be provided to the Bylaws Committee for their consideration.

There was discussion of

adoption of the Policy Governance (Carver) model, with topics including the benefits of this model and the question of whether it is consistent with the bylaws. It was decided that LNC members should learn more about this with the expectation of coming to a decision in July.

There was discussion of a proposal for a "Libertarian Party Foundation" that would accept tax-deductible contributions for educational projects like scholarships. No action was taken on this specific proposal, but the Chair was directed to gather information relating to the process of chartering such organizations in general.

A new version of the Unified Membership Plan, with a different payout formula and incentives for affiliate participation in membership recruiting, was approved. States will be able to choose between the existing plan and the new one, and the new one will not be available until enough states express interest and the necessary computer system changes have been made.

A new "student membership", which would cost \$5 but not include LP News, not affect delegate allocation, and not result in a distribution under the UMP, was approved.

There was discussion of a "welcome wagon letter" which would introduce new members to available materials about libertarian ideas.

Other items briefly discussed were some of the regional reports, a "systems review", possibilities for electronic voting at the national convention, and status of the web site vendor.

The next meeting is scheduled for 3 July in Indianapolis.

[Note: This is only a summary of the meeting, and is not intended to be relied upon as a complete record of business.] **LPC**

Michelle Malkin (continued from page 5)

nonprofits, lobbying and law firms, universities, and Big Businesses in — you guessed it — Washington, D.C.

Written by Beltway types and drawing on the self-delusionary opinions of other Beltway types, this Brookings report leaves out some of the most obvious reasons why Washington repulses normal Americans. I speak from experience as an intermittent and reluctant resident of Washington and the surrounding area over the past 10 years. On the surface, this city is a glamorous, patriotic and awe-inspiring metropolis. Up close, it's a rude, family-unfriendly, ego-infested, tax-subsidized, creep-coddling swamp. And that's not including Marion Barry and Gary Condit.

Try walking along K Street — D.C.'s famous corridor of power brokers — on a weekday morning with a baby, stroller and diaper bag. If you're lucky enough not to get mowed down by a profanity-spewing driver in an expensive car sporting diplomat license plates, you'll freeze to death under the icy glare of cheerless and condescending lobbyists who automatically assume you are your child's paid caregiver. Pedestrians and stay-at-home parents are endangered species in this part of town.

Try walking the halls of Congress. It's Abercrombie & Fitch meets the Hair Club for Men. Lots of really photogenic young people kissing up to lots of insufferable blowhards. Separated by one or two generations, most of

these players have only one real thing in common: They have never been weaned from the public teat. The closest they've ever come to meeting a payroll is when they come together to spend everyone else's payroll taxes.

In Washington, you don't have friends and neighbors. You have "contacts" and "sources." And nobody ever travels alone on Capitol Hill. Happiness is a groveling entourage. Weekends are made for "networking." The typical Beltway denizen's idea of social stimulation is a constantly vibrating beeper.

When the sun goes down, it's time to party. Except that most Washington dinner "parties" are dreadfully joyless affairs, filled with more rivalry than revelry — and enough name-droppings to fertilize a football field. Nowhere is this more evident than when politicians and the press gather together under one roof to fete each other. Pre-event planners for the White House Correspondents' Association are cattier than Miss America contestants fighting backstage over the last can of hairspray.

The Brookings report raises a public service alarm over the need "to seek out the best through the whole Union," as Thomas Jefferson put it in 1801. It's a legitimate concern. But instead of expanding government's role to lure outsiders to the capital, the ultimate solution lies in the other direction: cutting Washington — and its bloated culture — down to size. **LPC**

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Have Something to Say?

*Say it in the
LPC Monthly.*

CONTRIBUTION CORNER

Dear Friends:

Over the last four or five months, you read about the exciting events happening in the Libertarian Party of California. Do *you* want to make change happen? Do *you* want to make a difference? Don't wait - the socialists, Democrats, and Republicans aren't. Get on the bus today. We need your help. If you cannot donate time, please fill out the form to the right.

- Volunteer Time**
- LPC Headquarters (San Fernando Valley, California)
 - Data entry
 - Telephone help
 - Press releases
 - Newspaper layout
 - Bookkeeping
 - Graphic artists
 - From your home
 - Phone calls (membership, greeting new members)
 - Writing
 - Data entry
- In-Kind (Materials)**
- Printers/Printing services
 - Mail House (folding/stuffing envelopes)
 - Office or industrial space (San Fernando Valley, Malibu)
 - Laser printer (any)
 - Digital camera
- Financial**
- \$70,000 Operation Breakthrough
 - \$ 5,000 Operation: Energy Tax Revolt!
 - \$10,000 Scholarship Fund

Please contact Executive Director David Molony at director@ca.lp.org or call him directly at 818-782-8400.



Operation Breakthrough 2.0

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_____ I wish to **run** for office.

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Really Old

Cannabis has been used for medical purposes for over 12,000 years. Ancient historical pharmaceutical texts dating back some 2,000 years detail the wide variety of uses for this plant that grows throughout the world. Medical uses of cannabis are only now being rediscovered after some eighty years of prohibition in the United States. Canada and Western Europe are advancing quickly in the provision of laws to allow for medical cannabis and new classes of pharmaceuticals based on cannabinoids.

— AAMC